

## Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

ACDA-05 MC-02 AID-05 OES-03 ERDA-05 ( ISO ) W

----- 108953

R 150800Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4339

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 0218

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MCAP

SUBJECT: US STRATEGY AND FORCES IN ASIA

REF: STATE 003857

1. I ACCOMPANIED ADMIRAL WEISNER IN CALL ON GOS DEPUTY PM AND DEFENSE MINISTER GOH KENG SWEE JANUARY 14, AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF DR. GOH ON US STRATEGY AND FORCES IN ASIA AS PER REFTEL PARA 2. DR. GOH REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO THIS EXPRESSION OF US DETERMINATION TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS AND TO CONTINUE TO DEPLOY THE NECESSARY FORCES. HE RAISED NO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS, AND MERELY COMMENTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO KEEP RAISING THE FLAG HIGH IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION REGARDING US MILITARY POSITION IN EAST ASIA, DR. GOH REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO US/JAPAN DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE, SAYING THAT HE FULLY APPROVED. HE REMARKED

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WITH CONSIDERABLE ENVY UPON JAPAN'S ABILITY TO HOLD DOWN

DEFENSE SPENDING "AT US EXPENSE." THIS RELATES TO GOS WORRY OVER INCREASINGLY HIGH COST OF SINGAPORE DEFENSE PROGRAM, AS EXPRESSED TO US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY DR. GOH AND OTHER SENIOR MND OFFICIALS.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION ADMIRAL WEISNER ASKED DR. GOH ABOUT STATUS OF GOS REPLY TO UK NOTE REQUESTING RETENTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AT FORMER SEMBAWANG NAVAL BASE. DR. GOH SAID THAT THIS MATTER WAS "COMING ALONG" AND THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO TROUBLE IN REACHING A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME. HE INDICATED THAT PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY (PSA), WHICH HAD JUST TAKEN OVER ADDITIONAL FACILITIES RELEASED BY THE UK, WANTED TO BE PAID FOR THEIR USE; HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. AT RECEPTION GIVEN BY DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT SAME EVENING IN HONOR OF ADMIRAL WEISNER, DR. GOH REITERATED TO THE ADMIRAL THAT PSA POSITION WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM AND THAT "THEY'RE ONLY HAVING THEIR FUN AND GAMES." (WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUBSTANCE OF DR. GOH'S REMARKS HAVE ALSO BEEN CONVEYED TO UK HIGH COMMISSIONER.)

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT DR. GOH ON SUBJECT OF NAVAL BASE FACILITIES, BUT NOTE THAT FOR A GOVERNMENT AS CENTRALIZED AS SINGAPORE'S, DECISION IS TAKING A SURPRISINGLY LONG TIME.  
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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